lakhs accounts have been opened and the amount collected under the scheme was Rs. 100 crores.

Export of Rubber

*80. SHRIMATI GEETA KUKHERJEE:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow the export of rubber to arrest the crash in its prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quality and quantity of rubber proposed to be exported, country-wise;

(c) the rate at which rubber is proposed to be exported;

(d) how does it compare with the international prices prevailing in January, 1992; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to stabilise the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Government has allowed export of 14,000 metric tonnes of natural rubber consisting of 3,000 tonnes of centrifuged latex (dry rubber content), 5,000 tonnes of INSR-20 grade of crumb rubber and 6,000 tonnes of off-grade rubber (other than RMA-4 and RMA-5 grades) by private exporters, keeping in view the surplus availability and to arrest the decline in price.

So far, no export has been made and hence it is premature to assess the impact of export on rubber prices in the domestic market.

Government has not fixed any price for the export as this will have to be decided between the contracting parties by suitable negotiation. However, the weighted monthly average FOB prices of RSS-3 and SMR-20 grades in the Malaysian market during January, 1992 were as under:-

RSS-3	...	Us $ 774 per MT
SMR-20	...	US $ 803 per MT

Seizure and Confiscation of Snake Skin Articles

694. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of seizure and confiscation of snake Skins and snake skin articles have increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States in which such cases have come into the notice of the Government;

(d) Whether confiscated snake skin and snake skin items are permitted to be exported/traded within the country;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the quantity exported along with value during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Available reports do not indicate the seizure of snake skins and snake skin articles by the Customs authorities during the last one year.